

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A computer system, said computer system programmed to:  
provide a single system available over a global communications network for shipping management for each parcel from a plurality of parcels that each Shipper of a plurality of Shippers ships using any one of a plurality of services offered by any one of a plurality of carriers.

2. A method using a computer system, said method comprising:  
providing a single system available over a global communications network for shipping management for each parcel from a plurality of parcels that each Shipper of a plurality of Shippers ships using any one of a plurality of services offered by any one of a plurality of carriers.

3. A computer program product embodying computer program instructions for execution by a computer system, said computer program product comprising:  
a set of program instructions for providing a single system available over a global communications network for shipping management for each parcel from a plurality of parcels that each Shipper of a plurality of Shippers ships using any one of a plurality of services offered by any one of a plurality of carriers.

4. A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system programmed to:  
limit an identification of a plurality of carriers for selection by a second user according to a set of carriers from a plurality of carriers according to a set of specifications of a first user.

5. A shipping management computer system, said shipping management computer system programmed to:

1 customize a calculation and display of itemized charges and a total for payment by a  
2 second user according to a set of itemized charge presentation preferences from a plurality of  
3 itemized charge presentation options according to a set of itemized charge presentation  
4 preferences specified by a first user.

5  
6 6. A shipping management computer system, said shipping management  
7 computer system programmed to:  
8 collect as itemized charge presentation preferences of a first user a user input from the  
9 first user of an identification of itemized charge presentation options; and  
10 store in a database the itemized charge presentation preferences of the first user.

11  
12 7. A shipping management computer system, said shipping management  
13 computer system programmed to:  
14 limit an identification of a plurality of payment methods for selection by a second user  
15 according to a set of preferred payment methods from a plurality of payment methods  
16 according to a set of specifications of a first user.

17  
18 8. A shipping management computer system, said shipping management  
19 computer system programmed to:  
20 collect as preferred payment methods of a first user a first user input of the first user  
21 of a selection of at least one payment method from a plurality of payment method; and  
22 store in a database the preferred payment methods of the first user.

23  
24 9. A computer system for performing a set of actions for a plurality of users,  
25 wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network  
26 using a client computer device, said computer system programmed to:  
27 create at a linkable address on a server computer an electronic commerce site from  
28 which a second user can perform a particular activity, the particular activity characterized by  
29 a set of options, in accordance with a particular first user's option preferences.

1  
2           10.     A computer system for performing a set of actions for a plurality of users,  
3 wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network  
4 using a client computer device, said computer system programmed to:  
5           create a hypertext link template containing variable data and global communications  
6 address fields;  
7           collect user input of data from a first user;  
8           populate a plurality of variable data fields in the hypertext link template with the  
9 collected user input data; and  
10          populate at least one global communications address field with a universal address  
11 location corresponding to an address at which program instructions for processing the data in  
12 the variable data fields is located.

13  
14          11.     A computer system for performing a set of actions for a plurality of users,  
15 wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network  
16 using a client computer device, said computer system programmed to:  
17          collect from a first user service information about a service to be provided by the first  
18 user;  
19          collect from a second user requesting the service from the first user information about  
20 delivery of the service; and  
21          prepare information about the service according to the requesting information  
22 provided by the second user and the service information provided by the first user.

23  
24          12.     A shipping management computer system, said shipping management  
25 computer system programmed to:  
26          collect from a first user having access to a first computer device a set of information  
27 comprising: parcel specifications for shipping a particular parcel, shipping preferences, and  
28 selling preferences; and  
29          collect from a second user having access to a second computer device a set of

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1 recipient information comprising: a destination zip code, a selection of a carrier and a  
2 selection of a service offered by the selected carrier.

3  
4 13. A shipping management computer system, said shipping management  
5 computer system programmed to:  
6 generate a unique tracking number for each parcel to be shipped using a multi-carrier,  
7 shipping system.

8  
9 14. A shipping management computer system, said shipping management  
10 computer system programmed to:  
11 identify a relationship between a generated unique tracking number and a  
12 corresponding parcel; and  
13 store each generated unique tracking number and the corresponding parcel  
14 relationship in a database.

15  
16 15. A shipping management computer system, said shipping management  
17 computer system programmed to:  
18 generate a unique tracking number for each parcel to be shipped using the system  
19 wherein each parcel is characterized by a set of parcel specifications and each shipment of  
20 each parcel is characterized by a set of shipment specifications.

21  
22 16. A computer system for performing a set of actions for a plurality of users,  
23 wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network  
24 using a client computer device, said computer system programmed to:

25 notify a first user that a second user has refused to complete purchase of an item after  
26 a point in time that the second user has indicated to the first user that the second user wanted  
27 to purchase the item, and after a point in time that the first user has indicated to the second  
28 user that the item is available to the second user for purchase, but before the second user has  
29 provided delivery and payment information to the first user.

1           17.     A computer system for performing a set of actions for a plurality of users,  
2 wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network  
3 using a client computer device, said computer system programmed to:

4           collect as refusal information an input by a particular second user of a refusal to  
5 complete a purchase from a particular first user.  
6

7           18.     A shipping management computer system, said shipping management  
8 computer system programmed to:

9           generate a shipping log entry to a shipping log of a first user in response to a shipping  
10 selection by a second user of a service and carrier, wherein said shipping log entry contains a  
11 unique identifier corresponding to a particular item to be shipped and further corresponding  
12 to a database entry for the particular item further containing information corresponding to the  
13 selected service and carrier.  
14

15           19.     A shipping management computer system, said shipping management  
16 computer system programmed to:

17           recognize as a selection of a carrier and a service a selection by the second user of a  
18 particular shipping rate from an online interactive comparison display, said shipping rate  
19 corresponding to the selected carrier and the selected service shipping a particular item; and  
20           generate an entry to a shipping log of a second user for shipping the particular item  
21 using a the selected carrier and service.  
22

23           20.     A computer system for performing a set of actions for a plurality of users, said  
24 computer system programmed to:

25           automatically notify a second user that a first user has taken an action with respect to  
26 an item ordered by the second user.  
27

28           21.     A computer system for performing a set of actions for a plurality of users, said  
29 computer system programmed to:

1 recognize as an action confirmation for a particular item ordered by a second user a  
2 selection by a first user of a unique identifier corresponding to the particular ordered item,  
3 said selection of the unique identifier from an online electronic list of ordered items, said list  
4 corresponding to a next action status regarding the listed ordered items.  
5

6 22. A shipping management computer system, said shipping management  
7 computer system programmed to:

8 track a shipping status of each of a plurality of parcels, wherein each parcel is shipped  
9 by one of a plurality of services offered by one of a plurality of carriers.  
10

11 23. A shipping management computer system, said shipping management  
12 computer system programmed to:

13 poll an appropriate carrier shipping status system from a plurality of carrier shipping  
14 status systems in response to a user tracking request to obtain current tracking status  
15 information for a particular package.  
16

17 24. A shipping management computer system, said shipping management  
18 computer system programmed to:

19 recognize as a tracking request a request by a user to track a particular parcel, said  
20 request comprising a tracking number.  
21

22 25. A shipping management computer system, said shipping management  
23 computer system programmed to:

24 periodically generate signals to an appropriate carrier shipping status system from a  
25 plurality of carrier shipping status systems at the electronic address for the carrier computer  
26 system requesting shipping status for a particular parcel.  
27

28  
29 26. A computer system for managing shipping of a plurality of parcels by a

1 plurality of users using a plurality of carriers, said computer system comprising:  
2 a plurality of server computer devices,  
3 wherein each server computer device is programmed to perform a plurality of  
4 activities in support of a particular function, wherein each server computer device is  
5 programmed to support a different particular function, and wherein each particular function  
6 contributes to managing shipping of the plurality of parcels.

7  
8 27. A shipping management computer system, said shipping management  
9 computer system programmed to:

10 apply, in response to a request by any particular user of a plurality of users, a set of  
11 shipping location rules for each of a plurality of carriers to a default shipping location and a  
12 set of parcel specifications input by the particular requesting user, wherein each user accesses  
13 the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device,  
14 each user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global  
15 communications network.

16  
17 28. A shipping management computer system, said shipping management  
18 computer system programmed to:

19 apply, in response to a request by any particular user of a plurality of users, a set of  
20 parcel handling rules for each of a plurality of Carriers to a set of parcel specifications for a  
21 particular package to be shipped input by the particular requesting user, wherein each user  
22 accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer  
23 device, each user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the  
24 global communications network.

25  
26 29. A shipping management computer system, said shipping management  
27 computer system programmed to:

28 identify, in response to a request by any particular user of a plurality of users, each  
29 carrier from a plurality of carriers that supports shipping a particular parcel according to a set

1 of parcel specifications for a particular package input by the particular requesting user,  
2 wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network  
3 using a client computer device, each user client computer device having an individual  
4 electronic connection to the global communications network.  
5

6 30. A shipping management computer system, said shipping management  
7 computer system programmed to:

8 collect as parcel specifications for a particular parcel to be shipped by a particular  
9 user, user input from the particular user from a plurality of users, said parcel specifications  
10 comprising at least one of: a package type, package dimensions, package weight, and a value  
11 of the particular parcel, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global  
12 communications network using a client computer device, each user client computer having an  
13 individual electronic connection to the global communications network; and

14 store in a database a record corresponding to the particular user, said record  
15 comprising an identifier for the particular user and the parcel specifications for the particular  
16 parcel.  
17

18 31. A shipping management computer system, said shipping management  
19 computer system programmed to:

20 instruct each remote user client computer device of a plurality of remote user client  
21 computer devices over a global communications network to recognize a weight of a parcel as  
22 measured by a digital scale configured with a remote user client computer device; and

23 instruct each remote user client computer device of the plurality of remote user client  
24 computer devices to return a weight to the shipping management computer system.  
25

26 32. The shipping management computer system of Claim 31, said shipping  
27 management computer system further programmed to:

28 receive a weight communicated by each remote user client computer device over a  
29 global communications network, wherein the remote user client computer device is



1 configured with a digital scale.

2  
3 33. A shipping management computer system, said computer system programmed  
4 to:

5 display to each of a plurality of users upon each user's request a preview of shipping  
6 rates for the particular user to ship a particular package, wherein each user accesses the  
7 computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device,  
8 wherein each user having an individual electronic connection to the global communications  
9 network.

10  
11 34. A shipping management computer system, said computer system programmed  
12 to:

13 calculate for each of a plurality of users upon each user's request a shipping rate for  
14 each of a plurality of services offered by each of a plurality of carriers for shipping a  
15 particular parcel, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global  
16 communications network using a client computer device, wherein each user client computer  
17 device having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

18  
19 35. A shipping management computer system, said computer system programmed  
20 to:

21 determine for each of a plurality of users upon each user's request a delivery schedule  
22 for each of a plurality of services offered by each of a plurality of carriers for shipping a  
23 particular parcel, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global  
24 communications network using a client computer device, wherein each user client computer  
25 device having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

26  
27 36. A shipping management computer system, said computer system programmed  
28 to:

29 display to each of a plurality of users, upon each user's request, as to each particular

1 parcel to be shipped by the particular user, an identification of each of a plurality of carriers  
2 that provide a plurality of delivery notification service options, wherein each user accesses  
3 the computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device,  
4 and wherein each user client computer device has an individual electronic connection to the  
5 global communications network.  
6

7 37. A shipping management computer system, said computer system programmed  
8 to:

9 calculate, upon each request by each of a plurality of users, as to each particular  
10 parcel to be shipped by a particular user, a service charge by each carrier for each delivery  
11 notification service option that the particular carrier supports for delivery of the particular  
12 package to be shipped by the particular user, wherein each user accesses the computer system  
13 over a global communications network using a client computer device, and wherein each user  
14 client computer device has an individual electronic connection to the global communications  
15 network.  
16

17 38. A shipping management computer system, said computer system programmed  
18 to:

19 identify to each of a plurality of users, upon each user's request, as to each particular  
20 parcel to be shipped by the particular user, a service charge by each carrier for each delivery  
21 notification service option that the particular carrier supports for delivery of the particular  
22 package to be shipped by the particular user, wherein each user accesses the computer system  
23 over a global communications network using a client computer device, and wherein each user  
24 client computer device has an individual electronic connection to the global communications  
25 network.  
26

27 39. A shipping management computer system, said computer system programmed  
28 to:

29 display to each of a plurality of users, upon each user's request, as to each particular

1 parcel to be shipped by the particular user, an identification of each of a plurality of carriers  
2 that provide a plurality of delivery service options, wherein each user accesses the computer  
3 system over a global communications network using a client computer device, and wherein  
4 each user client computer device has an individual electronic connection to the global  
5 communications network.

6  
7 40. A shipping management computer system, said computer system programmed  
8 to:

9 calculate, upon each request by each of a plurality of users, as to each particular  
10 parcel to be shipped by a particular user, a service charge by each carrier for each service  
11 option that the particular carrier supports for delivery of the particular package to be shipped  
12 by the particular user, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global  
13 communications network using a client computer device, and wherein each user client  
14 computer device has an individual electronic connection to the global communications  
15 network.

16  
17 41. A shipping management computer system, said computer system programmed  
18 to:

19 identify to each of a plurality of users, upon each user's request, as to each particular  
20 parcel to be shipped by the particular user, a service charge by each carrier for each service  
21 option that the particular carrier supports for delivery of the particular package to be shipped  
22 by the particular user, wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global  
23 communications network using a client computer device, and wherein each user client  
24 computer device has an individual electronic connection to the global communications  
25 network.

26  
27 42. A shipping management computer system, said computer system programmed  
28 to:

29 display to each of a plurality of users, upon each user's request, as to each particular

1 parcel to be shipped by each user, an online interactive graphic comparison of a plurality of  
2 shipping rates calculated for each of a plurality of services offered by each of a plurality of  
3 carriers to ship a particular parcel, each shipping rate corresponding to a particular service  
4 offered by a particular carrier for delivering the particular parcel to a particular delivery  
5 destination at a particular parcel delivery time on a particular parcel delivery date, wherein  
6 each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network using a client  
7 computer device, and wherein each user has an individual electronic connection to the global  
8 communications network.

9  
10 43. An online interactive shipping management computer system, said computer  
11 system programmed to:

12 regenerate a display of shipping information at any particular remote user client  
13 computer device of a plurality of remote user client computer devices, based on modified  
14 input by a particular user at a particular remote user client computer device, wherein the  
15 computer system communicates with each remote user client computer device over a global  
16 communications network.

17  
18 44. An online interactive shipping management computer system, said computer  
19 system programmed to:

20 execute a set of computer instructions for generating an interactive user interface  
21 display of rating and schedule shipping information with a set of data input by a particular  
22 user from a particular remote user client computer device connected to the computer system  
23 over a global communications network; and

24 generate the interactive user interface shipping information display comprising the  
25 data input by the particular user, a result of the executed set of computer instructions, at least  
26 one data collection field initialized with a data item from the data input by the particular user,  
27 and an instruction to execute the executable set of instructions in response to a user  
28 modification of data in the data collection field.

1           45.     The online interactive shipping management computer system of Claim 43,  
2     said computer system further programmed to:

3           distribute with the interactive user interface shipping information display to the client  
4     computer device an executable set of the executed computer instructions with the instruction  
5     to execute the executable set of instructions in response to a user modification of the  
6     initialized data in the data collection field.

7  
8           46.     A shipping management computer system, said shipping management  
9     computer system programmed to:

10          apply, in response to a request by any particular user of a plurality of users, a set of  
11     billing option rules for each of a plurality of carriers to a single billing option preference  
12     input by the particular requesting user, wherein each user accesses the computer system over  
13     a global communications network using a client computer device, each user client computer  
14     device having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

15  
16          47.     A shipping management computer system, said shipping management  
17     computer system programmed to:

18          identify, in response to a request by any particular user of a plurality of users, each  
19     carrier from a plurality of carriers that supports a particular billing option preference input by  
20     the particular requesting user for shipping a particular parcel, wherein each user accesses the  
21     computer system over a global communications network using a client computer device, each  
22     user client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global  
23     communications network.

24  
25          48.     A shipping management computer system, said shipping management  
26     computer system programmed to:

27          collect as a billing option preference for each particular user of a plurality of users a  
28     user input from the particular user of an identification of a billing option preference for  
29     parcels to be shipped by the particular user, wherein each user accesses the computer system

1 over a global communications network using a client computer device, each user client  
2 computer having an individual electronic connection to the global communications network;  
3 and

4 store in a database a record corresponding to each particular user, said record  
5 comprising an identifier for the particular user and the billing option preference for the  
6 particular user.

7  
8 49. The shipping management computer system of Claim 48, said shipping  
9 management computer system further programmed to:

10 identify, in response to a request by any particular user of a plurality of users, each  
11 carrier from a plurality of carriers that supports shipping a particular parcel wherein the  
12 particular parcel is characterized by a set of parcel characteristics, wherein said set of parcel  
13 characteristics translate into a particular ratable weight according to dimensional weight  
14 calculation rules for each of the plurality of carriers, wherein each user accesses the computer  
15 system over a global communications network using a client computer device, each user  
16 client computer device having an individual electronic connection to the global  
17 communications network.

18  
19 50. A shipping management computer system, said computer system programmed  
20 to:

21 determine for each of a plurality of users upon input by each user of a particular origin  
22 postal code and a particular destination postal code an origin rating zone identifier corresponding  
23 to the particular origin postal code for each of a plurality of carriers, and a destination rating zone  
24 identifier corresponding to the particular destination postal code for each of the plurality of  
25 carriers, wherein each user accesses the shipping management computer system over a global  
26 communications network using a client computer device, and wherein each user client computer  
27 device has an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

28  
29 51. A shipping management computer system, said computer system programmed

1 to:

2 determine from a set of delivery times for each of a plurality of services for each of a  
3 plurality of carriers a potential delivery schedule for each of the plurality of services for each of  
4 the plurality of carriers in response to a request by each of a plurality of users to ship a particular  
5 parcel, wherein each user accesses the shipping management computer system over a global  
6 communications network using a client computer device, and wherein each user client computer  
7 device has an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

8  
9 52. A shipping management computer system, said computer system programmed  
10 to:

11 recognize, in response to a particular user of a plurality of users using a particular  
12 remote user client computer device to print a shipping label for shipping a particular parcel  
13 using a particular carrier from a plurality of carriers, a set of graphic resolution characteristics  
14 of a printer device configured with the particular remote user client computer device,  
15 wherein each user accesses the computer system over a global communications network  
16 using a remote user client computer device, each remote user client computer device having  
17 an individual electronic connection to the global communications network.

18  
19 53. The computer system of Claim 52, said computer system further programmed  
20 to:

21 create a shipping label image bearing a dimensionally accurate symbology for display  
22 on a display device configured with the particular remote user client computer device for  
23 printing on the particular printer device.